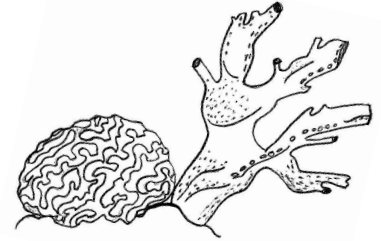


Coral



Five Fast Facts:

1. Corals are *invertebrate animals*, related to sea anemones and jellyfish.
2. Corals are made up of individual *polyps* that group into *colonies*, and live in the world's shallow tropical oceans.
3. Each coral polyp has stinging tentacles called *nematocysts*, which help them capture prey.
4. Though many people think of corals having hard, stone-like skeletons, there are also soft corals, such as the leathery members of the order *Alcyonacea*.
5. Corals get their nutrients from photosynthesizing *zooxanthellae* (ZO-zan-THEL-uh); though some, like the hard coral *Lophelia pertusa*, can live in the cold dark depths of the ocean (up to 3,280 feet) without any of the light-dependent zooxanthellae.

Food for Thought:

1. Is coral alive?
2. What ocean animals are friends of coral?
3. How is coral changing?

Activities:

- Start with a twist on KWL - students draw what they think a coral reef is, what it looks like, what other animals live there (come back after facts portion to to add/revise/edit information)
- Draw a “zooming in” poster of coral (reef, colony, coral, polyp, zooxanthellae, etc.)*
- Venn diagram, Coral vs Plants - answer, how/why is a coral like a plant? How/why is it different?
- Draft a letter to President/Congress/world leaders on how/why to protect coral reefs

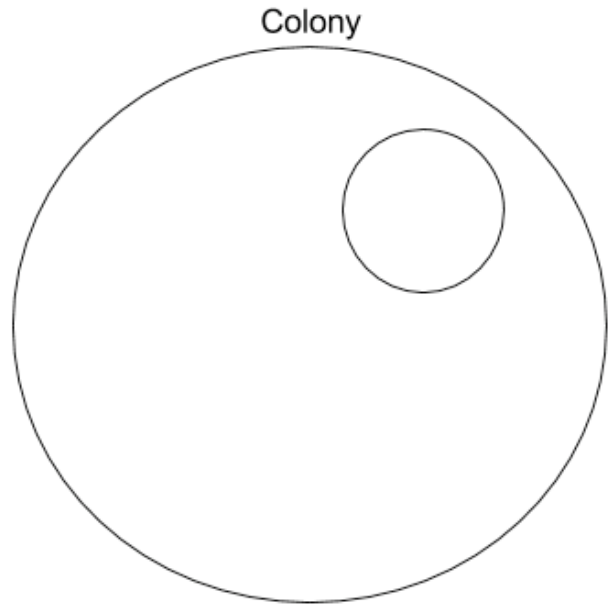


Picture-in-Picture

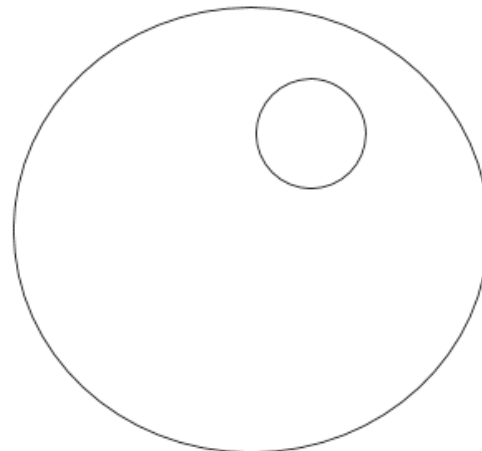
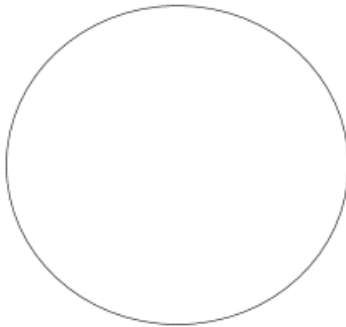
Directions: Draw a picture in each circle according to its label, “zooming in” on the coral animal with each concentric circle.



Reef



What should
go here?



Polyp